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would have been risked by him intentionally.

The last plan proposed by the patentee for supplying pens with ink, is liable to obvious objections; for it would both greatly endanger the blotting and defacing account-books and other papers of importance, which might lie on the desks, in case of the breaking any of the metal pipes, or mismanaging the cocks; and would add so much resistance to the motion of the pen, by the weight of the flexible tube, as in all probability would tire the hand with a much less portion of writing than would be the case with pens not thus encumbered.

Making the fountain pen act by compression, seems a valuable improvement, and promises to come into such general use as, added to the sale of the machines for making pens, to recompense the patentee for his trouble and expense; means will probably be soon devised to regulate the expansion of the air from an increase of temperature, which when much air is in the tube, would cause the ink to flow out, and then the only remaining inconvenience to which this pen is liable will be removed.

Patent of Mr. David Meade Randolph, of Golden-square, Middlesex, for a method of manufacturing boots, shoes, and other articles, with a substitute for thread or yarn.

Dated Feb. 1809.

The substitute for yarn in making boots and shoes, consist of small brads, sprigs, or tacks, made of copper, iron or other proper metals, applied in forming the soles and heels alone, principally by the use of a last, constructed with an iron sole about the thickness of common sole leather. This iron sole has three holes made through it, about an inch in diameter, one near the

toe, another about half-way between the toe and the heel, and a third in the heel; which holes are filled up level with wooden plugs, and are made for the purpose of fastening the boot or shoe to the last, in the usual manner while making. When the upper-leather and inner-sole are placed on a last of this description, the outer-sole is nailed to the inner-sole by brads of such a length, as will allow them to perforate the inner sole, with which the metal sole of the last being in close contact, it turns and clinches them so as to present a smooth surface inside; and the brads thus connect the two soles so as to serve instead of stitching or sewing them. This new method is not limited to the edge or margin of the sole, but can be also applied to any intermediate space, where strength and durability may be deemed requisite.

Another application of the same principle, with some addition, is mentioned by the patentee at the end of the specification, in the following words. I also apply as a substitute for yarn, &c. in the fabrication of braces, traces, or other articles to which the same can be usefully applied, and in place of stitching, wires made of iron, brass, or copper, or other fit metal. These wires I use lengthways, by stretching them the whole length of the trace or brace; and they are fastened at each end round small metal cylinders, inclosed between plates of leather, connected, by means of the substitute mentioned.

Some account of experiments on different kinds of charcoal, for improving the manufacture of gunpowder, and of the slowness of combustion of chestnut wood, extracted from a paper by M. Proust.

Journal de Physique.